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SENSITIVE

FOR EUR/SE, EUR/PGI, G/TIP, INL/HSTC, G, DRL, PRM, IWI

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TAGS: [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [PREL](#) [ELAB](#) [GR](#) [TIP](#)

SUBJECT: GREECE PART 2: TIP REPORT SUBMISSION 2006

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[1](#). The following is Sensitive but Unclassified. Please Protect Accordingly.

[2](#). (SBU) Below are Embassy Athens' responses to the 2006 TIP report questionnaire. Text is keyed to Ref A request for "Prevention" Section. This is the second of four cables.

[3](#). PREVENTION:

-- A. Does the government acknowledge that trafficking is a problem in that country? If no, why not?

The government, including high-ranking officials, publicly acknowledges that trafficking is a problem in Greece.

-- B. Which government agencies are involved in anti-trafficking efforts and which agency, if any, has the lead?

There are eight national ministries with responsibility for anti-trafficking efforts. Nine Secretaries General (SG) from those ministries comprise the Interministerial Committee on TIP, of which the SG of the Ministry of Justice is the president. The Ministry of:

--Health (MOH) has responsibility for medical care for victims, operation of shelters, operation of a telephone hotline, coordination of repatriation program with IOM, and coordination of emergency services.

--Public Order (MPO) has responsibility for TIP police task forces, conducting TIP raids, arresting traffickers, producing police reports as the basis for prosecutions, screening and identifying victims, and education of police.

--Justice (MOJ) has responsibility for prosecutions, convictions, education of prosecutors and judges, assignment of prosecutors to TIP cases, and amendment of the legislative framework. Prosecutors have a special responsibility to formally grant victim status.

--Foreign Affairs (MFA) coordinates the diplomatic/NGO/GoG working group, coordinates and negotiates bilateral and multilateral agreements, such as the Child Repatriation Agreement with Albania, and acts as a liaison between interested parties. The spokesman of the Interministerial Committee on TIP is an MFA employee with the rank of ambassador. Hellenic Aid, a part of MFA, funds NGO and IO programs and shelters, provides legal aid to victims through NGO funding, funds training of police, judges and prosecutors, and is cooperating with USAID to contribute to the Transnational Action against Child Trafficking (TACT) program in Albania.

--Interior (MOI) (including the SG for Gender Equality) has responsibility for amendment of the legislative framework regarding migration policy which includes residence permits

and reflection periods, granting of residence permits, nationwide public awareness campaign, and vocational training, counseling, and social support for victims.

--Education and Ministry of Employment have responsibility for education, vocational training, and job placement of victims.

--Finance has responsibility for authorizing funding for TIP efforts.

-- C. Are there, or have there been, government-run anti-trafficking information or education campaigns? If so, briefly describe the campaign(s), including their objectives and effectiveness. Do these campaigns target potential trafficking victims and/or the demand for trafficking (e.g. "clients" of prostitutes or beneficiaries of forced labor)?

In 2006, the Secretariat General for Gender Equality (SGGE), under the MOI, completed a nationwide public awareness campaign on TIP. The campaign is a 40-second television spot and an informational leaflet with the same visual theme. The message of campaign was designed to reach and impact "clients," victims, and citizens with a special focus on educating the general public about the TIP problem. The Secretary General of SGGE was personally involved in creating

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the television spot, which has powerful music and images, showing the phases of a young girl's life that lead her to become a victim of trafficking. After seeing and understanding the tragic story of the victim, the spot silently gives a simple message directed to all segments of society and the TIP problem:

"THIS IS TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS.
IT IS A CRIME.
IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REVEAL IT."

The National Greek Television and Radio Council agreed to air the ad for two months on three popular state television stations starting in March 2006. After a three-month break, the ad will be aired again. The SGGE is seeking additional airtime from privately owned stations.

-- D. Does the government support other programs to prevent trafficking? (e.g., to promote women's participation in economic decision-making or efforts to keep children in school.) Please explain.

One significant new effort to prevent trafficking is the agreement between the GoG and USAID for the Greek MFA to support the TACT program in Albania with \$600,000 over three years. Hellenic Aid also supports NGOs that carry out prevention work in source countries.

(SBU) In addition to the above programs, Hellenic Aid reported that in 2005 it granted funding to the following TIP projects to benefit victims in source countries and to prevent TIP and provide support to victims in Greece. These programs are GoG anti-TIP initiatives and are not related to the "benchmarks." (Note: Please protect. Funding levels for specific NGOs and agencies are not published or publicly released. End Note.)

--80,000 euros to the European Public Law Center to provide training for law specialists in Moldova on "Enactment of TIP Legislation" which would provide a legal framework to protect TIP victims, especially women and children.

--83,000 euros to the Human Rights Defense Center (KEPAD) for the "Joint Project of a Regional Network to Combat TIP in Eastern and South Eastern Europe," including the creation of the "Ariadne" network to coordinate cooperation between countries of origin, transit, and destination through involvement of anti-TIP NGOs from Albania, BiH, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey, and Ukraine. The first Ariadne project is to research the TIP legal framework, implementation of TIP law, dimensions of the TIP phenomenon, and efforts made by the state, IOs, and NGOs for assistance to victims in each network country. KEPAD will public the findings in a book in English and the local languages. (Ref 05 Athens 1626)

--9,022 euros to the Human Rights Defense Center (KEPAD) for a March 1-2 parallel event in New York in the framework of the UN Commission on the Status of Women entitled "Regional Cooperation for Countering Trafficking in Women and Girls" to promote the tripartite regional cooperation (between state, international and non-governmental agents) among countries of origin, transit and destination to prevent TIP and provide assistance and support to the victims.

--125,000 euros to a joint project administered by the Center for Research and Support for Victims of Maltreatment and Social Exclusion (CVME or "EKYTHKA" in Greek) between CVME,

ARSIS, and Albanian shelter KATHV entitled "Care and support to TIP victims from NGOs and the judicial system - development of relevant support systems in Albania."

--50,000 euros to CVME for a project to benefit Georgia entitled "Development of Prevention Policies in Institutions (primarily orphanages) in Georgia to Prevent Children from Becoming TIP Victims" to train psychiatrists and social workers, train workers at institutions, and provide creative activities for children. (Ref 05 Athens 2779)

--50,000 euros to the Center for Research and Action on Peace (KEDE) for a project to benefit Armenia entitled "Empowering Socially Excluded Women in Armenia" to establish, equip, and operate a vocational training center for 18-45 year old women victims of TIP, immigrants, refugees and women who have served time in jail.

--95,000 euros to Doctors of the World (MdM), Greece for a prevention project entitled "Medical Care for Street Children of Moldova" to benefit street children and children in the "Regina Pacis" institution.

--75,000 euros to Klimaka for a project to benefit Greece and the Ukraine entitled "Prevention of TIP and support to victims in Greece and the Ukraine." The project supports "empowerment" activities for victims, a shelter in Athens, a public awareness campaign in Greece (a TV spot and leaflets), and a prevention program in the Ukraine.

--40,000 euros to the European Network of Women (ENOW) for a program entitled "SOS hotline for Victims of Modern Forms of Slavery/TIP from Origin Countries of the Ukraine, Moldova, Albania, Bulgaria, and African countries." The funding extends ENOW's multi-lingual hotline operation to a 24-hour basis and provides training to hotline personnel. ENOW also has victim-directed multi-lingual public awareness television spot and leaflets.

--81,000 euros to the Greek Council for Refugees for the project "Legal Assistance to TIP Victim Asylum Seekers" for research on the general situation of TIP victims and a project of legal support to TIP victims.

--36,000 euros to the Mediterranean Women's Studies Center (KEGME) for the continuation of the project "HESTIA: Trafficking of Women and Girls for Sexual Exploitation in Albania" which conducts seminars and training for police personnel in Albania.

--130,000 euros to The Association for the Social Support of Youth (ARSIS) for the prevention, identification and protection project "Action for the Protection of Albanian Children in Danger" to be carried out in Albania and Greece.

--78,810 euros to ACT UP-Greece for training in Greece of four medical students from source countries that are recipient countries of developmental aid on TB, STDs, and HIV/AIDS.

--60,000 euros to ACT UP-Greece for information to and registration of STD carriers in the target groups of TIP victims, refugees, prostitutes, and drug users.

--97,000 euros to the Greek Chapter of the International Police Association (IPA) for Seminars in 10 Greek cities on "Immigrants, Rights, the Legal Framework, Trafficking, and Child Prostitution" for Greek police. IPA estimates the seminars reached at least 1,300 officers, with presentations by 9 different NGOs, IOM, prosecutors, police, lawyers, and university professors. Delegations from Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro, Romania and the Ukraine were invited to attend the training seminar in Thessaloniki.

--150,000 euros to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for two programs: "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings - Voluntarily Repatriation" to repatriate victims and provide for their social integration in countries of origin, an information campaign to sensitize the public through leaflets distributed throughout Greece, and awareness raising through seminars. Target groups for repatriations are victims of sexual and other forms of exploitation of any gender and age. The second program is "A Study of Street Working" in the regions of Attica, Peloponnese and Makedonia (Northern Greece).

--100,000 euros to the Secretary General For Gender Equality to support activities in Serbia-Montenegro and BiH for a project entitled "Support to Neighboring Countries to Fight Trafficking of Women" to provide medical, social, and psychosocial support to victims and to conduct an awareness raising campaign with IOM.

--Undisclosed funding approved for the European Center for Public Law (ECPL), IOM, and Stability Pact for the three-year

project "Hera" for regional scholars and legal experts to study and propose reform to TIP laws in Serbia-Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, BiH, Croatia, Moldova, Belarus, and the Ukraine under the direction of the ECPL.

As with all Hellenic Aid projects on any issue, a percentage of the funding is provided up front, and the remainder of the funding is granted upon the receipt of acceptable interim and final project assessments. (Embassy is aware and has reported that certain NGOs have complained of significant delays in transferring this funding to NGOs - see Ref 05 Thess 81.)

-- F. What is the relationship between government officials, NGOs, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society on the trafficking issue?

Government and NGO cooperation took a step forward in 2005 with the completion of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the Interministerial Council, 12 NGOs and IOM. This agreement, negotiated over three meetings with the Secretaries General and NGOs, formalized cooperation between

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the GoG and those NGOs and allows organizations like the Greek police to more easily and directly work with NGOs. One particularly vocal NGO, Greek Helsinki Monitor, was not invited to negotiate or sign the MOC. One NGO that does street work, ACT UP, decided not to sign the MOC because it does not cover provisions for NGOs that do street work. One NGO called the MOC a document "for the U.S. embassy, not the Greek reality." The 12 signatory NGOs reported that while the document was "not perfect," they signed it because they wanted to facilitate movement on TIP issues with various ministries, and were eager to improve cooperation and coordination with the GoG. Since the signing of the document, the "Working Group" has been established which provides NGOs, including some who did not sign, direct access to working level contacts at the MOJ, MPO, MOI, MFA and MOH.

The former Minister of Health (there was a cabinet change on February 14, 2006 and he was replaced) and Secretary General of MOH stated publicly in April 2005 that certain NGOs "blackmail" the GoG for additional funding by inflating numbers of potential TIP victims in the country.

-- G. Does it monitor immigration and emigration patterns for evidence of trafficking? Do law enforcement agencies screen for potential trafficking victims along borders?

Law enforcement authorities, including border patrol officers and airport authorities, screen arrivals for possible TIP victims and travelers with fraudulent documents as part of its Schengen responsibilities. Airport and immigration law enforcement specialists are included in TIP training programs and are members of the diplomatic-NGO-governmental authorities "Working Group." Greece has acceptable border controls in general, though thousands of illegal immigrants cross or are smuggled into the country every year.

There have been isolated cases of police identifying and referring TIP cases from airports and police stations, but there is no systematic monitoring of immigration and emigration patterns for evidence of trafficking. Many victims of sex trafficking come with legal tourist or temporary visas, implying that increased efforts for victim screening are needed at Greek consulates. Nationals of some countries, such as Bulgaria and Romania, do not need visas to enter Greece, which likely contributes to larger numbers of victims from those countries.

-- H. Is there a mechanism for coordination and communication between various agencies, internal, international, and multilateral on trafficking-related matters, such as a multi-agency working group or a task force? Does the government have a trafficking in persons working group or single point of contact? Does the government have a public corruption task force?

There is an Interministerial Committee at the Secretary General level that meets regularly and shares TIP information, progress, programs, and trends among ministries, headed by the MOJ. The MFA and MPO take the lead on coordinating with multilateral bodies, such as OSCE, on TIP. However TIP specialists visiting Greece in 2005-2006 from international organizations (OSCE, ILO, IOM, UN), met with a range of officials from many involved ministries. A TIP "Working Group" was established by the MFA and IOM in November 2005 between origin, transit, and destination country diplomats, NGOs, and working level government authorities (Ref 05 Athens 3157). In its most recent meeting on February 21, there were over 55 representatives present for the productive two-hour discussion. The Ministry of Public Order has an anticorruption unit in its Bureau of Internal Affairs, which has investigated a limited number of TIP-related cases.

-- J. Does the government have a national plan of action to address trafficking in persons? If so, which agencies were involved in developing it? Were NGOs consulted in the process? What steps has the government taken to disseminate the action plan?

The GoG has a National Action Plan (NAP) to address TIP, entitled "Integrated Program: Actions for the Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings." The NAP covers inter-ministerial activities and specific activities of eight ministries, and NGOs were consulted in its development. The MOJ Secretary General and the Interministerial Council presented the NAP at a press conference in 2004. The government has taken steps to disseminate the NAP via its public release and press conference, at international conferences and meetings, as well as by delivering it to international organizations such as the IOM, SECI, OSCE, and EU and their representatives. In 2005 the GoG produced an update on its progress on the NAP.

Greece 2006 TIP Report Submission Continued Septel.
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